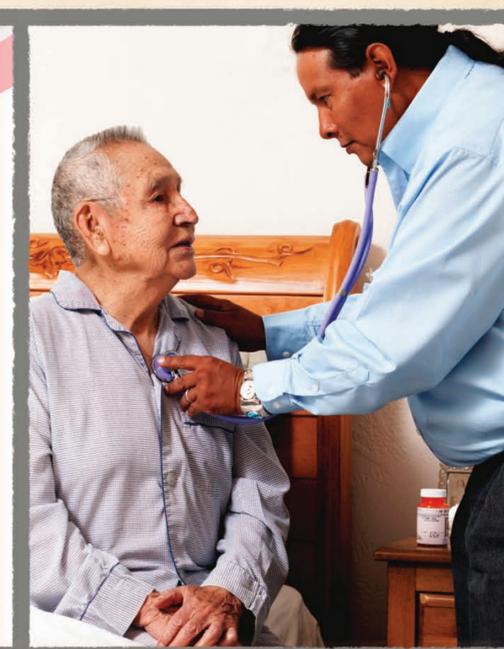
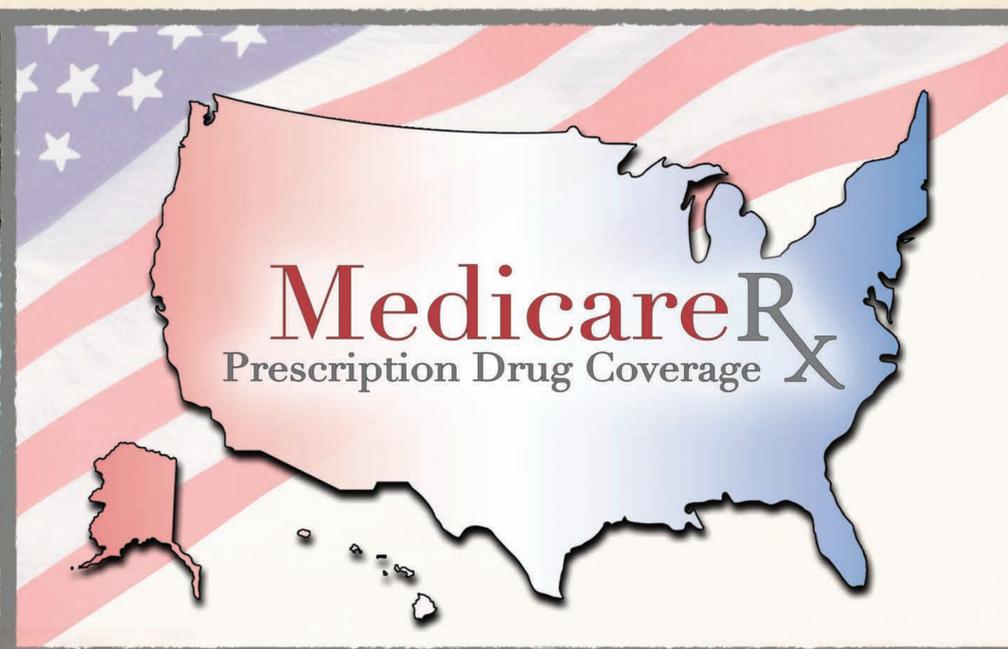


# Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage



## Indian Health

MAY 2005	JUNE 2005	JUNE-JULY 2005	AUGUST 2005	SEPTEMBER 2005	OCTOBER 2005	NOVEMBER 2005	DECEMBER 2005	JANUARY 2006	MAY-JUNE 2006	
<p><b>CMS</b></p> <p>AI/AN Awareness TRAININGS IHS Area Offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albuquerque</li> <li>Oklahoma</li> <li>Billings</li> <li>Navajo</li> </ul> <p>CMS MAILS "You will automatically receive extra help" notice to most people with Medicare and Medicaid full benefits and those with Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) - Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), or Qualifying Individual (QI).</p> <p>Prescription drug plans (PDP) send contracts to Indian Health Service (IHS) Headquarters, Tribes, and Urban Indian Health Program (I/T/U) pharmacies.</p>	<p><b>SSA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSA MAILS letter and application to people with limited incomes who may qualify for extra help.</li> <li>Online information and applications available <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov">http://www.socialsecurity.gov</a>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CMS</b></p> <p>AI/AN Awareness TRAININGS IHS Area Offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bemidji</li> <li>Aberdeen</li> <li>Sacramento</li> <li>Seattle- Anchorage</li> <li>Seattle - Portland</li> <li>Phoenix &amp; Tucson</li> <li>Nashville</li> </ul> <p>CMS MAILS "You will automatically receive extra help" letter to people with Medicare Savings Programs (MSP), and to all Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit only recipients.</p>	<p><b>SSA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In JUNE SSA begins processing applications for extra help and sending outcome letters.</li> <li>In JULY SSA online application for extra help available <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov">http://www.socialsecurity.gov</a>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CMS</b></p> <p>Plans must submit to CMS current status of agreements with I/T/U pharmacies and dispensaries.</p> <p><b>CMS (Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services)</b></p>	<p><b>CMS</b></p> <p>DEADLINE for contracts with PDPs and Medicare health plans with Prescription drug coverage are signed. CMS announces PDPs and their exact premiums and lists of covered drugs.</p> <p>IHS Area Offices/ CMS Regional Offices will begin 2nd round of area level Medicare prescription drug coverage TRAININGS for I/T/U sites.</p> <p>Medigap notifies policy-holders whether coverage is as good as Medicare prescription drug plan.</p>	<p><b>CMS</b></p> <p>OCTOBER 1 Drug plans can begin marketing to people with Medicare.</p> <p>CMS MAILS <i>Medicare &amp; You Handbook</i> to all beneficiaries with drug plan information.</p> <p>CMS MAILS "You've been enrolled" notice to individuals with full Medicare and Medicaid benefits.</p> <p>OCTOBER 31 "Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder" WWW.MEDICARE.GOV web tool becomes available to compare Medicare drug plans in each area.</p>	<p><b>CMS</b></p> <p>NOVEMBER 15 Medicare prescription drug plan enrollment begins for ALL people with Medicare (open enrollment through MAY 15, 2006).</p> <p>DECEMBER 31 People with both Medicare and Medicaid full benefits will be enrolled in a Medicare prescription drug plan automatically if they have not already chosen one.</p> <p>DECEMBER 31 Medicaid drug coverage ends for people with both Medicare and Medicaid full benefits.</p>	<p><b>SSA</b></p> <p>SSA begins premium withhold from beneficiary checks.</p>	<p><b>CMS</b></p> <p>JANUARY 1 Drug coverage begins for people who enrolled in a prescription drug plan by December 31, 2005.</p> <p>Individuals with Medicare and Medicaid full benefits can change plan monthly.</p> <p>Individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid will automatically begin receiving prescription drug coverage through Medicare.</p>	<p><b>CMS</b></p> <p>MAY 15 Last day to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and pay lower premiums.</p> <p>CMS MAILS Automatic enrollment letters to people approved to receive extra help, but who have not yet enrolled in a plan, SSI recipients and those in MSPs (QMB, SLMB or QI). JUNE 1, 2006 Enrollment for these groups takes effect.</p>

SSA (Social Security Administration)